

Grand Canyon National Park Arizona



Desert View Inter-tribal Cultural Heritage Site Plan Environmental Assessment



**Public Meeting
November 2018**



Overview of this Presentation

- Project Purpose and Need
- Project Background
- The Planning Process and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Impact Topics
- Alternatives
- How to Comment



Project Purpose and Need

- Improve existing infrastructure to expand cultural demonstrations, educational programs, and exhibits
- Opportunity for visitors to learn directly from tribal artisans and other representatives through first-voice interpretation
- Transform Desert View into an Inter-tribal Cultural Heritage Site



Project Purpose and Need

- Embrace a unique opportunity to partner with associated tribes
- Address visitor orientation issues at Desert View related to an only-partially implemented plan from 2002
- Proactively respond to increasing visitation and subsequent resource impacts
- Comply with P.L. 114-221 *Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act*

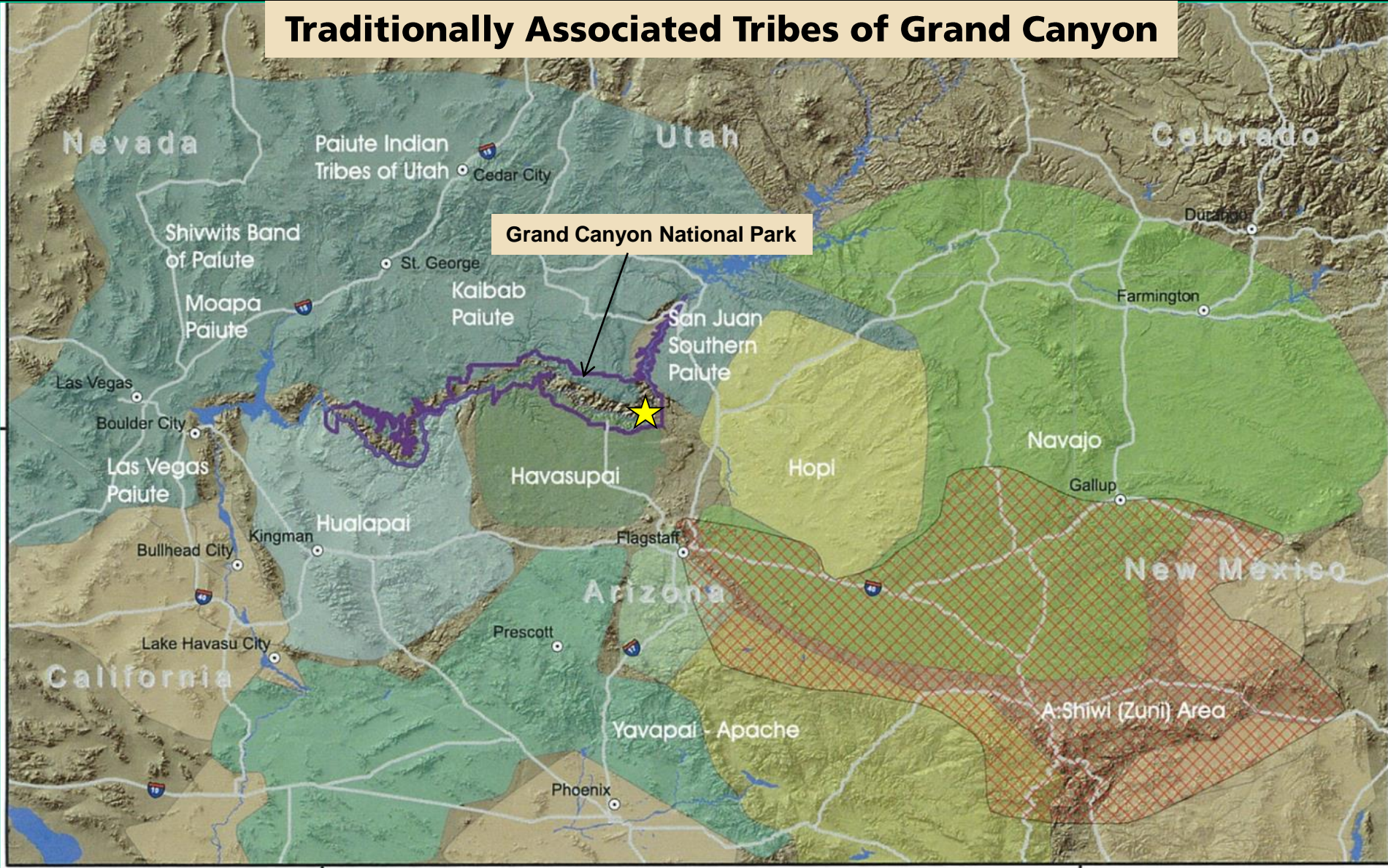
Grand Canyon National Park

Desert View Inter-tribal Cultural Heritage Site Plan

Environmental Assessment



Traditionally Associated Tribes of Grand Canyon



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Project Background
Inter-tribal Working Group





Project Background

"We share Desert View as a symbol to bond the peoples of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The Watchtower serves as a connection to embrace the heartbeats of our peoples and visitors far and wide with the heartbeat of the canyon...We are still here."

- Inter-tribal Working Group Vision for Desert View





What is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)?

Requires federal agencies to:

- Analyze the environmental impacts of federal actions
- Engage the public in the decision-making process

The federal agency prepares a written environmental assessment (EA) to determine if a federal undertaking would significantly affect the human environment.



Where Are We in the NEPA Process?

- An EA has been prepared to analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed action alternative and the no action alternative
- The EA is available for public review from October 25 until November 24, 2018
- You can provide comments at any time during the public review period



What Topics are Analyzed in the EA?

- ❖ Cultural Resources - Historic Structures and Buildings
 - Desert View Watchtower National Historic Landmark
 - Desert View Watchtower Historic District
- ❖ Visitor Use and Experience – Interpretive and Education Opportunities



What Alternatives are Considered in the EA?

Alternative A – No Action

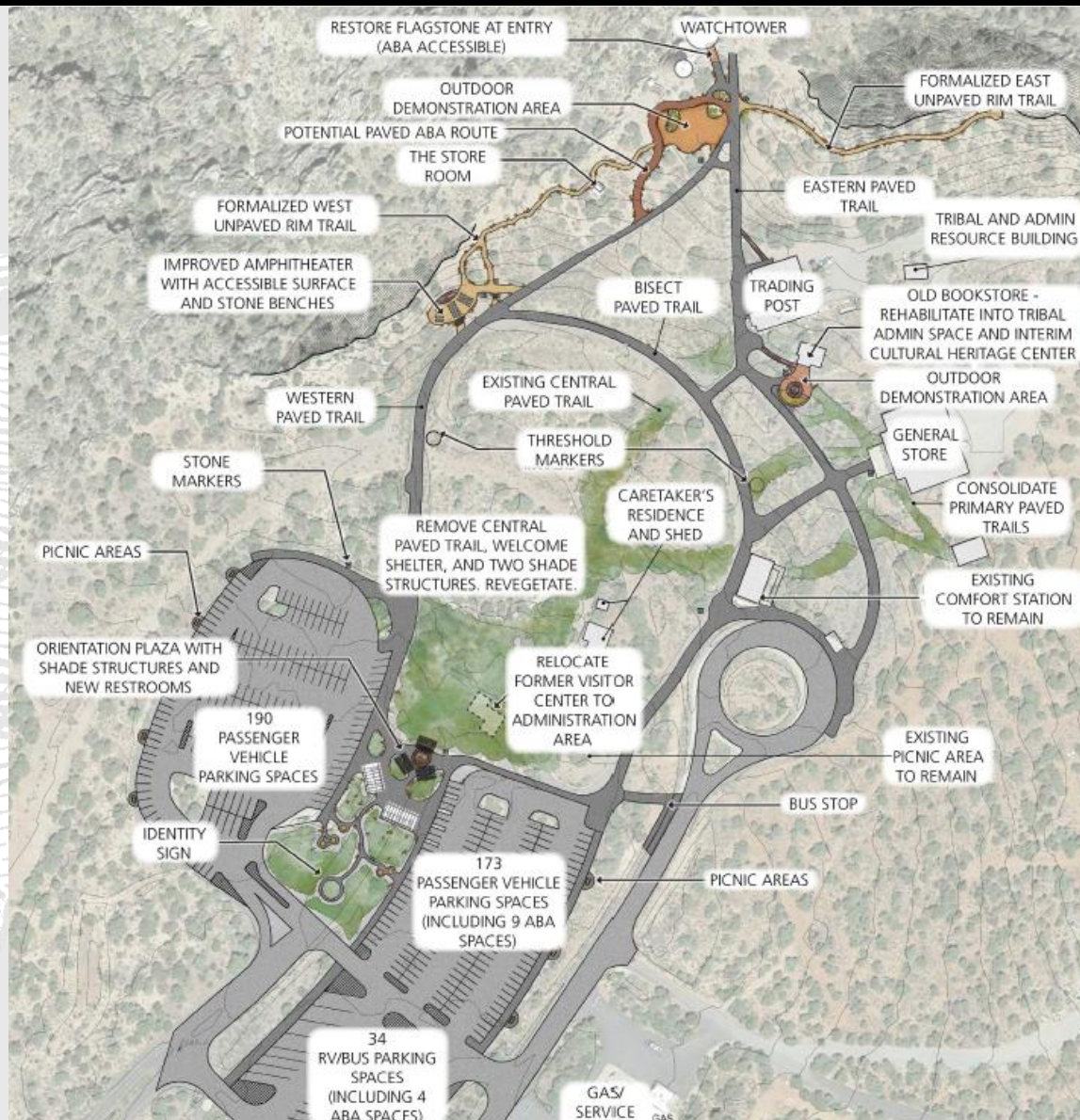
- Operations would continue as they are currently
- Cultural Demonstration program would continue in the Watchtower only
- Layout of the Desert View visitor services area would remain the same

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Alternative B - Proposed Action and NPS Preferred

- Modifications to trails for improved pedestrian circulation, ABA accessibility, and orientation to the site
- Adaptive reuse of buildings and addition of outdoor areas to support cultural demonstrations
- Reconfiguration of parking areas and traffic flow
- Improved visitor amenities, new restrooms, picnic areas, seating and enhanced amphitheater area
- Upgraded utility infrastructure





Next Steps in the EA Process

- Public Meetings and Comment on EA – November 2018
- NPS Review Comments – November/December 2019
- NPS Decision on Project – January/February 2019



We Welcome Your Input and Comments!

Comments can be submitted during this open house:

- Comment cards available at the sign-in table
- Online by visiting -
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/DesertViewICHHS>
- Comments may also be sent to the address below:

Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86203

Comments will be accepted until November 24, 2018.

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Open House